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# CAPITOL STUFF

By TED LEWIS

Washington, April 13—Without a doubt Vice Adm. William F. Raborn Jr. was picked by President Johnson to head the vital Central Intelligence Agency, not because of his military background, but because of his outstanding administrative ability.

The chances are also that Johnson is depending on his new CIA chief to use his persuasive technique as an administrator (pretty much similar to LBJ's "let us reason together" soft sell) to straighten out what has become an almost scandalous mess in this country's intelligence gathering activities.

Each branch of the armed services has its own intelligence operation. So does the State Department, and believe it or not, so does (at least in South Viet Nam) the U.S. Information Service.

It has to be granted that retiring CIA Chief John McCone tried during his three and a half years in office to end the petty jealousies, rivalries and contradictory "evaluations" which spring from these spyboy units over which the CIA had no control.

McCone had a modicum of success, but his first job was to straighten out the CIA itself, which had become under "master spy" Allen Dulles' regime of eight years an administrative monstrosity. Dulles was a brilliant intelligence operator, but a lousy administrator.

Until the CIA became an efficient, well-coordinated entity not much of a case could be made by McCone for halting the overlapping spy activities of other agencies. McCone will now leave the CIA with the agency fairly well organized, so that Raborn can tackle the too-long delayed job of putting the Pentagon and State Department spies out in the cold, or under more centralized jurisdiction.

If there is any question as to the importance to national security of having U.S. intelligence operations function properly there is a ready answer in the present sad state of affairs in Viet Nam.

## An Editor's Appraisal of 'The Spooks'

THE NEWS military editor, Jerry Greene, recently returned from the Southeast Asia war area, "The spooks," as he calls our intel-



Adm. William F. Raborn Jr.  
The man to clean up a mess

ligence operatives "are falling all over themselves out there and they still don't know what the Viet Cong is doing, or is up to."

Greene substantiates entirely a description of U. S. intelligence operations in Viet Nam by Malcolm Browne, who began covering the war for the Associated Press in 1961.

In his book "The New Face of War" (Bobbs-Merrill 284 pp, \$5.), Browne has this to say:

"More needed to be known (in 1961) about this peculiar enemy (the Viet Cong) and American intelligence organizations began to proliferate. First there was the CIA. From its headquarters on the second floor of the embassy in Saigon, the CIA's 200 or so agents were divided into three groups: Administrators and analysts, field observers, and infiltrators. The infiltrators were (and are) the only secret operatives of the agency.

"Closely allied to the CIA was the military combined studies group which administered the whole special forces program. The U. S. aid mission set up an intelligence group, working with its civilian police advisers.

## How Everybody Got into the Intelligence Act

"The U.S. Information Service set up an intelligence group. The U. S. Army set up the 704th Military Intelligence Detachment, which dabbles in all kinds of things. The provost marshal's office had an intelligence outfit. The Army created another intelligence unit for 'strategic intelligence.' At a lower level, the Army put into operation a 'sector intelligence' unit at every one of the scores of American advisory detachments throughout South Viet Nam. Even the U. S. Navy brought in a little intelligence unit. And the U. S. Embassy's security section was involved all along in political intelligence."

This is of course a case of federal bureaucracy functioning at its very worst and in the delicate involved intelligence aspect of national security with its "peace or war" connotations.

As Browne says in his book, none of these spy groups "is willing to cooperate with the others on a regular basis. Each maintains fierce unit esprit and takes enormous pride in its intelligence scoops. Information is very often closely concealed from competing American agencies, because of the danger that the competitors may pirate the material and report it to headquarters first, getting the credit."

## When the Spy Boys Are on the Wing

Jerry Greene advises that out in Viet Nam this "army of spooks" have scores of planes at their disposal. Everybody knows when the spy boys are on the wing, for their planes are invariably bright silver in color, totally unmarked, except for a number on the tail.

Adm. Raborn can clean up this intelligence mess if anybody can. It was Raborn who had administrative charge of development of the Polaris missile submarine program. His Navy managerial talents were almost uncanny. They will have to be equally uncanny in streamlining our intelligence.

Fortunately, under the new CIA setup he can devote much of his time to this problem as an outstanding intelligence "pro" will be in the No. 2 spot in the spy agency. This individual is newly-appointed deputy Richard M. Helms, who has been with the CIA since it was organized in 1947.

Under the new management, it may also be hoped that the CIA with its 25,000 staff and its secret \$1 billion fund will function a lot better than it has in the past.

Its over-all excellent record has been tainted with occasional bad blunders, like its amateurish estimate that a Cuba-wide revolt would be sparked once anti-Castro forces came ashore at the Bay of Pigs.